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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/553,776	04/21/2000	Venugopal Srinivasan	28049/36451	6850
34431	7590	12/17/2004	EXAMINER	
HANLEY, FLIGHT & ZIMMERMAN, LLC			ODOM, CURTIS B	
20 N. WACKER DRIVE			ART UNIT	
SUITE 4220			PAPER NUMBER	
CHICAGO, IL 60606			2634	

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/553,776

Applicant(s)

SRINIVASAN, VENUGOPAL

Examiner

Curtis B. Odom

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,8-13,22-24,26,29-34 and 36-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4,6,7,14-21,25,27,28,35 and 39-41 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 32 is objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase “the calculated entropy value” is suggested to be changed to “ a calculated entropy value”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 22-24, 26, 29-34, and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goertzen (previously cited in Office Action 4/9/2004) in view of Furlan et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5, 652, 581).

Regarding claim 1, Goertzen discloses an encoder (Fig. 2, block 240) having an input and an output, wherein the input receives a signal, wherein the encoder calculates an entropy (column 4, line 33-column 6, line 44, wherein the amount of bits used to encode the signal based on a probability value is the entropy value) of at least a portion of the signal and encodes the signal to include data representative of the calculated entropy (column 6, lines, 14-16, wherein the

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characteristic of the bits used to calculate the probability at the decoder is data representative of the calculated entropy) and wherein the output carries the encoded signal.

Goertzen does not explicitly disclose the output signal (encoded signal) includes the calculated entropy value. However, Goertzen does disclose that in entropy encoding, the amount of bits used to encode the signal is based on a probability (entropy) value (column 4, lines 33-47). The probability is sent to a code lookup table to find a code (length) matched for the probability, wherein the code is used to encode the signal. Furlan et al. (column 1, lines 36-46) further discloses that the entropy of the signal is represented as the code length of the signal (amount of bits used to encode the signal). An entropy can be transformed into a code length by simply locating the entropy value on a code (length) lookup table. Thus, by simply looking at the code length of a signal, the entropy value can be determined. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that since in entropy encoding, the code length of a signal represents a calculated entropy value, the calculated entropy value is included in the encoded signal by means of the code length.

Regarding claim 2, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Goertzen and Furlan et al. do not disclose the signal is an audio signal. However, Goertzen does disclose the encoding scheme works for coding symbols in a symbol stream (column 2, line 65-column 3, line 11). An audio signal can include symbols in a symbol stream and it is also well known in the art that an entropy can be calculated and used for the encoding of an audio signal. Therefore, encoding an audio signal using a calculated entropy does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 3, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Goertzen further discloses the encoder determines the entropy value based on a summation of probabilities (column 4, lines

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33-47 and column 5, lines 31-44), wherein encoding using a probability for each symbol will result in a summation of probabilities for a stream of symbols.

Regarding claim 5, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Goertzen further discloses the signal is encoded to preserve the entropy of the encoded portion of the signal (column 4, lines 33-54 and column 6, lines 4-20).

Regarding claim 8, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Goertzen and Furlan et al. do not disclose the signal is coded to include the entropy value using frequency hopping. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that in order to transmit the encoded signal and preserve the entropy, the signal would have to be modulated and transmitted according to a particular scheme. The type of modulation scheme or transmission scheme is deemed a design choice and does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 9, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Goertzen and Furlan et al. do not disclose the signal is encoded to include the entropy using spectral modulation. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that in order to transmit the encoded signal and preserve the entropy, the signal would have to be modulated and transmitted according to a particular scheme. The type of modulation scheme or transmission scheme is deemed a design choice and does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 10, which inherits the limitations of claim 1, Goertzen and Furlan et al. do not disclose the entropy value is calculated using histograms. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made that a histogram could have provided the same entropy value as the calculation method of Goertzen. It is well known in the

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art that there are various ways to calculate an entropy. Thus, the method at which an entropy value is calculated is deemed as design choice and does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 11, Goertzen discloses a decoder (Fig. 3, block 340) having an input and an output, wherein the input receives a signal, wherein the decoder decodes the signal so as to read an entropy code from the signal (column 4, lines 33-54 and column 6, lines 4-20), and wherein the output carries a signal based upon the decoded entropy code.

Goertzen does not explicitly disclose the received (encoded) signal includes an entropy value. However, Goertzen does disclose that in entropy encoding, the amount of bits used to encode the signal is based on a probability (entropy) value (column 4, lines 33-47). The probability is sent to a code lookup table to find a code (length) matched for the probability, wherein the code is used to encode the signal. Furlan et al. (column 1, lines 36-46) further discloses that the entropy of the signal is represented as the code length of the signal (amount of bits used to encode the signal). An entropy can be transformed into a code length by simply locating the entropy value on a code (length) lookup table. Thus, by simply looking at the code length of a signal, the entropy value can be determined. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that since in entropy encoding, the code length of a signal represents a calculated entropy value, the calculated entropy value is included in the encoded signal by means of the code length.

Regarding claim 12, which inherits the limitations of claim 11, Goertzen and Furlan et al. do not disclose the signal is an audio signal. However, Goertzen does disclose the encoding scheme works for coding symbols in a symbol stream (column 2, line 65-column 3, line 11). An audio signal can include symbols in a symbol stream and it is also well known in the art that an

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entropy can be calculated and used for the encoding of an audio signal. Therefore, encoding an audio signal using a calculated entropy does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 13, which inherits the limitations of claim 11, Goertzen discloses the decoder determines the entropy value based on a summation of probabilities (column 4, lines 33-47 and column 5, lines 31-44), wherein decoding using a probability for each symbol will result in a summation of probabilities for a stream of symbols.

Regarding claims 22-24, 26, and 29-31 the claimed method includes features corresponding to subject matter mentioned in the above rejection of claims 1-3, 5, and 8-10 which is applicable hereto.

Regarding claims 32-34, the claimed method includes features corresponding to subject matter mentioned in the above rejection of claims 11-13 which is applicable hereto.

Regarding claim 36, which inherits the limitations of claim 32, Goertzen and Furlan et al. do not disclose the signal is decoded by determining swapping events, and wherein the swapping events correspond to swapping of a spectral amplitude of at least two frequencies in the signal. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that in order to receive and recover the encoded signal and determine the entropy, the signal would have to be demodulated according to the scheme at which signal was modulated and transmitted. The type of modulation/demodulation scheme or transmission/reception scheme is deemed a design choice and does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 37, which inherits the limitations of claim 32, Goertzen and Furlan et al. do not disclose the signal is decoded using frequency hopping. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that in order to

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receive and recover the encoded signal and determine the entropy, the signal would have to be demodulated according to the scheme at which signal was modulated and transmitted. The type of modulation/demodulation scheme or transmission/reception scheme is deemed a design choice and does not constitute patentability.

Regarding claim 38, which inherits the limitations of claim 32, Goertzen and Furlan et al. do not disclose the signal is decoded using spectral demodulation. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that in order to receive and recover the encoded signal and determine the entropy, the signal would have to be demodulated according to the scheme at which signal was modulated and transmitted. The type of modulation/demodulation scheme or transmission/reception scheme is deemed a design choice and does not constitute patentability.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4, 6, 7, 14-21, 25, 27, 28, 35, and 39-41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Curtis B. Odom whose telephone number is 571-272-3046. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on 571-272-3056. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Curtis Odom
December 10, 2004

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Chin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**STEPHEN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**